

# ***STUDENT USE OF INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS IN AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY***

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# IWB at UNT Libraries

- In January 2011, the University of North Texas Libraries installed two Hitachi StarBoards in the new Collaboration and Learning Commons of the Eagle Commons Library.



# Purpose of Study

- UNT Libraries would like to know whether we should expand the technology.
- Starboards are popular at CLC, but why?
- Plan to conduct a usage study of the StarBoards at the Eagle Commons Library.



# Literature Review

- SMART Technologies founded in 1987
  - ▣ distributor of projectors.
- First interactive whiteboard developed in 1991.
- 2.3 million+ SMART Boards have been installed globally in education, business and government settings.
  - ▣ 1.9 million+ installed in K–12 classrooms.

# IWB Uses and Benefits

- Collaboration
- Interactivity
- Engage learners
- Annotate Microsoft Office files, draw images, save, print, and email work.



# IWB Integration

## □ Users

### ■ Teachers

- Classroom lessons

### ■ School Librarians

- Storytelling and Teaching

### ■ Academic Librarians

- Instruction sessions



# Absent from Literature

- Independent patron use of IWBs in academic libraries.



# Research Questions

- How are the patrons in the Collaboration and Learning Commons interacting with the StarBoards?
- Are patrons using the StarBoards to teach one another, and if so, for the same reasons IWBs are used in librarian-mediated instruction?
- Is the popularity of the workstations influenced by the study space itself?
- Could technologies other than the IWBs meet the needs of the users?



# Methods Considered

## □ Pros and Cons of:

- Observations of user behavior
- Focus groups
- Survey of users



# Survey Questions

- One page in length
- Frequency and Likert scales
- Blocks of questions were used to extract data we want



# Sample Questions

## IWB software questions

4. I use the StarBoard software to create geometric shapes.

Never                      Rarely                      Sometimes                      Frequently                      Always

5. I use the StarBoard software to write or draw on other applications, e.g., MS Word, Internet Explorer.

Never                      Rarely                      Sometimes                      Frequently                      Always

## Visualization questions

14. I like the StarBoard because I can project and enlarge documents, files, or webpages.

Strongly Disagree                      Disagree                      Neutral                      Agree                      Strongly Agree

15. The StarBoard makes it easy for a group to see and discuss a project.

Strongly Disagree                      Disagree                      Neutral                      Agree                      Strongly Agree

## Physical context questions

19. I like to use the StarBoard workstation instead of the study rooms in the Eagle Commons Library because...

a. It is a more private space.

Strongly Disagree                      Disagree                      Neutral                      Agree                      Strongly Agree

b. It is a smaller, cozier space.

Strongly Disagree                      Disagree                      Neutral                      Agree                      Strongly Agree

# Survey Distribution

- **Striving for quick and easy**
  - At point of service
  - Incentive mentioned first
  - Informed consent notice
  - All staff trained to distribute



# Survey Success?

## □ Avoiding low return rate

- Incentive
- Survey distributed and returned at point of service
- Short – explanation and survey
- Repeat users are motivated to give opinion

## □ Getting correct data

- Duplicate questions
- Tested on students
- Gave a comparison space



# Preliminary Results

- **Survey started on Monday, March 26**
  - 15 surveys distributed and 13 returned
  - Preliminary results meet expectations
    - StarBoard software is rarely used
    - StarBoards used by groups of students
    - Small study area preferred to larger
    - 50% of respondents agree that IWB helps them understand and remember what they are learning

# Post-Survey Plans

## □ Focus Groups

- Are students aware of IWB software capabilities?
- Can other less expensive technologies meet the same needs?
- How do students interact when using IWB? Are they taking on teaching roles?
- Is active learning occurring during IWB use?
- Does IWB have certain advantages for science students?

# Questions?

Thanks for joining us today!

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